his BA in Special Education from the Troy went back to school and earned immersed in the field of special needs, Mar High School. Once he was fully Education and three years at Del years with the Santa Clara Office of impaired. Troy began volunteering there by school staff. This led to 13 convinced to take a permanent job into the community,” says Troy. “Every working together and convinced him to make the move. Troy started at PACE as an instructional aide at the PACE School. Working with the same student for six years, Troy was able to connect with him on a personal level and continues to assist him outside of PACE with home respite care. After 6 years at the school, Troy decided he was ready for a new challenge and moved on to help establish the new Adult Day Program at PACE where he currently remains.

“I enjoy helping our clients get out into the community,” says Troy. “Every client has specific goals, and I love to help them achieve those goals.”

Anne Chen, Adult Day Program coordinator, says of Troy, “He comes in every day with a great attitude. And the parents of our clients love him because of his intense attention toward each individual and their specific needs.”

In his private life, Troy keeps quite busy with five children, Portia, now 18, just graduated from high school, Simone, 16, is an avid basketball player, Devon, 9, plays soccer, and Darius, 4, andAbrum, 6 mo., have yet to decide what their hobbies will be.

PACE clients and students succeed every day because of dedicated staff like Troy. Thank you, Troy!

As many of you may know, maintaining an established routine is often an important objective for an individual with autism. PACE meets that need by providing many skilled employees to help maintain a semblance of routine and balance in our clients lives. Troy is one of the employees that exemplifies that skill every day.

Troy’s foray into the world of special needs individuals began at home with his daughter, Portia, who is visually impaired. Troy began volunteering at Portia’s school and was quickly convinced to take a permanent job there by school staff. This led to 13 years with the Santa Clara Office of Education and three years at Del Mar High School. Once he was fully immersed in the field of special needs, Troy went back to school and earned his BA in Special Education from the University of San Francisco. A former PACE employee knew Troy from working together and convinced him to join us here at PACE. And, after seven and a half years of dedicated service to PACE, we are certainly fortunate he made the move.

In the seven year period from 2000 to 2007, the average annual increase in Autism rates has ranged from 13% to 20% across the 6 counties as shown in the following table. During that same period, the annual student enrollment has remained effectively flat or slightly declining. While the national statistic for Autism is widely quoted at 1:150, the Bay Area schools tend to operate at the national statistic or below.

Annually, the number of special education students identified with Autism has increased. Since 1993, the California Department of Developmental Services has seen an alarming increase in the cases of Autism in California.

This June, the Autism statistics for 2007 were made available to the public through the California Department of Education’s (CDE) DataQuest database and the California Department of Developmental Services. The statistics reflect an alarming increase in the cases of Autism in California.

Recently, in an effort to celebrate 40 years in business, Intel Corporation pledged to donate 1,000,000 volunteer hours to the surrounding communities, and PACE was one of the lucky recipients!

In this workshop participants will learn:

- The definition and history of autism
- The most effective practices for helping autistic children “rejoin” the world
- Educational and therapeutic practices that focus on relating, communicating and thinking

For more information, call 408-245-3400 or www.pacificaustism.org

Intel Volunteers

Intel gives Back to the Community

This past May, nearly 70 Intel volunteers donated their time to help us with multiple projects around our property. In the hours the Intel volunteers were here, they landscaped an area in the farthest corner of our property to prepare it for an employee area that will eventually house a picnic table. They also cleared ivy, cut back trees and raked the entire side of our building to allow more room for our students and aides to walk at breaks. On the side of the building closest to the entrance, the volunteers cleared more ivy to make way for the planter boxes they built for our students garden. The planter boxes are now home to tomatoes, lettuce, and many other lovely plants that our teachers, therapists and students tend. We’ve even continued the venture by adding a few more planter boxes to make room for more student and teacher projects.

Autism News

This introductory workshop on autism led by Marcia Goldman, M.A., PACE Education Director.

Tuesday, September 9th, 6pm to 8:30pm

PACE School
1880 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050
$50/person or $75/for two

In this workshop participants will learn:

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Autism News

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Since 1993, the California Department of Developmental Services has seen an Autism increase of 652%. And in the period from 2000 to 2007, the Autism ratio for California student enrollment has increased from 1:431 to 1:135, which is higher than the national statistic of 1:150. On a local level, Santa Clara County schools have seen an increase in Autism of 17% annually since 2000. And one out of every 109 students in San Mateo County receive special education services for Autism.

In the seven year period from 2000 to 2007, the average annual increase in Autism rates has ranged from 13% to 20% across the 6 counties as shown in the following table. During that same period, the annual student enrollment has remained effectively flat or slightly declining. While the national statistic for Autism is widely quoted at 1:150, the Bay Area schools tend to operate at the national statistic or below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2000 to 2007 Cumulative Increase in Autism</th>
<th>Average Annual Student Increase</th>
<th>Average Annual Enrollment Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>205%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Mateo</td>
<td>245%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>245%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>-1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>179%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marin</td>
<td>133%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>229%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Executive Director's Desk

Our methodology at PACE can be summed up in three simple words: “connect, support, educate.” With the goal of making a connection with every one of our clients we strive to break down the barriers that often get in the way to effective communication. While less than 20% of all communication is dependent upon speech, we often lose sight of everything else due to our dependence on verbal language. For many in the Autism realm, speech is not an option. In fact, at PACE school more than 70% of our students are non-verbal. For our staff at PACE who work hard to build meaningful connections with these individuals, it’s critical to seek out other methods for self-expression. Recently PACE embarked upon two unique collaborations to help develop creative ways to reach out to our non-verbal students.

Through a partnership with the Community School of Music and Art (CSMA), PACE will begin a special honors art program to start in the Fall in conjunction with two other neighboring Autism schools. All three schools serve students in the K-12 age range who are affected by Autism and similar developmental disabilities. This collaborative program will bring our agencies together to share ideas and concepts on how to engage students affected by Autism into the arts. The focus will be on incorporating art as a vehicle for self-expression. Our ultimate goal is to help our students develop an appreciation for the artistic process, explore new mediums of expression, develop transferable skills and expand social experiences.

At the same time, PACE has developed a partnership with the drama department of Santa Clara University to look at using drama modeling to help PACE staff discover new and imaginative means of communicating with their students. By shifting the staff’s perspectives and using alternative methods of expression, creative new avenues for interaction can be developed and translated into communication building blocks for our students. Finding the right creative blend of expression can open up the world of communication for our students and give them the tools they need to interact with those around them.

Kurt Ohlfs
Executive Director

PACE Comedy Hour

Why did the duck throw butter out the window? He wanted to see butterfly!!

Smiles and laughter abounded at the first PACE Comedy Show this past April. With our spectacular host, Nicholas, and many of the PACE students debuting their jokes, the show was a smashing success. From knock-knock jokes to stories and songs, there was never dull moment. There are definitely a few budding comedians in our student body. We’re already looking forward to an encore performance next year.

Matranga House
Birthday Celebration

Long time Matranga house resident, Asya, recently celebrated her 40th birthday at a party thrown in her honor. Staff and residents from other PACE homes joined in the festivities that included a delicious buffet, a princess cake and musical entertainment provided by Matranga House’s favorite musician, Asya’s Dad.

Community Partners

Established in 1957, the Summit League was founded by three former Junior Leaguers residing in Saratoga who wished to create a woman’s service group. Today, the Summit League boasts over 50 active and 60 sustaining members, and is committed to raising funds to support education, health, welfare and the arts. Over the past 50 years more than $1 million has been raised to support non-profit, charitable organizations in the Santa Clara Valley. The list of past recipients of Summit League support includes (among many others): A Place for Teens, Bring Me a Book Foundation, Downtown College Prep, Eastfeld Min Quong, Good Samaritan Hospital, Hospice of the Valley, Invision, San Jose Museum of Art, Special Olympics, Downtown College Prep, A Place for Teens, Bring Me a Book Foundation, Downtown College Prep, Eastfeld Min Quong, Good Samaritan Hospital, Hospice of the Valley, Invision, the San Jose Museum of Art, Special Olympics and now PACE!!

In the Spring of 2007 PACE was invited to submit an application for Summit League funding and we were delighted when we were asked to be one of three agencies to make a presentation about PACE. Executive staff and Board president Kati Miller were invited to join the Summit League membership at their kick-off event, an exclusive tour of the Old Grandview Ranch, a spectacular estate situated high in the Saratoga Hills with a stunning view of the Santa Clara Valley. Commented Kati Miller: “It was a pleasure to meet this extremely dedicated group of women who are passionate about giving back to their community. It is truly an honor for PACE to have been chosen as their 2009 grant recipient.”

PACE student and Comedy Hour host, Nicholas

The Summit League’s biennial fundraising event, “Home for the Holidays,” is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5 and features charming homes in Los Gatos and Saratoga that have been professionally decorated for the festive season. Advance tickets are $40 and $45 at the door. Detailed information will be available in the Fall. Proceeds from the event will support PACE. We hope we’ll see you there!

For more information about the Summit League go to www.summit-league.org.

How You Can Help

You can make a difference in someone’s life. Contributions to PACE support programs and services that help our clients realize their full potential. Please consider making a donation in one of the following ways:

- Secure online donations can be made directly to PACE by accessing our website at www.pacificautism.org.
- Donate by mail by sending your contributions to PACE, 1880 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.
- Donate by telephone by calling 408-245-3400 and using your credit card to make a contribution.
- Double your gift with an employee matching gift contribution.

Support PACE by shopping online

MaaTiam helps non-profit organizations to raise funds at no cost to both the organization and its supporters.

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Do you work for a business or belong to an organization that would like to learn more about autism? PACE staff would love to come make a presentation to your group. Contact Karen Kennan at 408.625.6176 or karenkennan@pacificautism.org.

Buy or Sell on EBay to help support PACE!!

10% to 100% of each item auctioned will be donated to PACE.

For more information about the Summit League, go to www.summit-league.org.

PACE Executive Director Kurt Ohlfs (speaking at the Summit League Event)

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A Night to Remember

Along with Spring comes a few rites of passage: spring break, graduation and, of course, prom. This June, the second annual PACE Prom took place at the PACE school.

Seventy-five attendees packed the house. In addition to about 20 PACE students, family members, friends and staff ushered in the celebration. Upon arrival, guests were led down a red carpet to the fully decked out, multi-purpose room. Beautiful stars, balloons and lights adorned the room, thanks to assistance from PACE staff and the McKinney family.

“The prom brought out the fun side in most everyone,” says Iris Weiss, PACE teacher. “And, a student who is usually reserved and shy was dancing with everyone non-stop. He was smiling and dancing the whole night. He was crowned prom king."

The DJ led the crowd in vibrant, sing-a-long dances, including the Macarena, the YMCA and the ever-popular Chicken Dance. Room three was stocked with tasty treats and libations for the tired dancers. And let’s not forget about room six, which was set up with a professional photo backdrop for formal prom pictures. No detail was left unchecked.

The night will long be remembered by everyone who attended.

Congratulations Graduates

This June we congratulated three of our PACE students on their graduation from our school program: Larry, Daniel and Joe.

Larry and Daniel are on their way to Adult Day Programs in the local area. We will continue to see Joe around as he will be moving on to the Adult Day Program here at PACE. We are proud of their achievements, but sad to see them go.

Congratulations and good luck!

Great Givers by Karen Kennan

As a non-profit agency PACE receives support from the community in many forms. Generous financial contributions, donations of in-kind goods and services and volunteer assistance are just a few of the ways PACE is supported by the community at large. In this issue of PACE Setter we are pleased to highlight the Sobrato Family Foundation which has chosen to commit its resources to build and strengthen community-based non-profits like PACE so that they can more fully accomplish their mission.

With their commitment to “Investing in People and Places”, the Sobrato Family Foundation has generously been supporting the local non-profit community for over ten years. Created in the 1990s, the Family Foundation is one of two foundations created by the Sobratos to formalize their commitment to share their success with the communities in which their real estate development business had thrived for 50 years.

The Foundation exists to provide capital that supports nonprofits’ capacity to deliver services, achieve their community mission and strengthen the local community. The Foundation’s mission is to create and sustain a vibrant and healthy community where all Silicon Valley residents have equal opportunity to live, work and be enriched. To accomplish its purpose, the Foundation invests in strong community-based non-profits that promote self-reliance and economic independence and positively contribute to the quality of life for economically, physically and emotionally challenged individuals.

In the winter of this year, after going through a rigorous and competitive selection process, PACE was selected by the Sobrato Family Foundation to receive a 2:1 Challenge Grant totaling up to $41,000 over a two year period. This means that if PACE raises $20,000 in new or increased donations from community members in 2008, the Foundation will match and double those donations and provide a second year of funding of $21,000. The end result is an additional $61,000 of new funding for PACE over two years.

We invite you to join the Sobrato Family Foundation and invest in the Pacific Autism Center for Education during this window of time when your contribution can count for even more. All new or increased contributions received during the 2008 calendar year will be matched 100% by the Challenge Grant.

Employee Corner by Veronica Rodriguez

PACE would like to announce the greatest and latest additions to our growing team of dedicated professionals:

March
- Stefanie Warner – Occupational Therapist
- Jake Marlerosian – Instructional Specialist
- Ashley Dahl – ECSE Teacher Intern
- Maria Simons – Direct Care Staff
- Tony Benavidez – Direct Care Staff

May
- Tiffany Ma – Instructional Specialist
- Shuan Geronimo – Instructional Specialist
- Diana Vu – Instructional Specialist
- Lailari Reyes – Instructional Specialist
- Irene Oliva – Instructional Specialist
- Mercedez Ragado – Direct Care Staff
- Joeynn Baleza – Direct Care Staff
- Nicholas Nunez – Instructional Specialist

April
- Sarah Steinenbach – Special Education Teacher Intern
- Robert Zafapour – Instructional Specialist
- Pepito Mustapha – Direct Care Staff
- Munda Molwa – Direct Care Staff

June
- Adama Kamara – Direct Care Staff
- Alexander Soleydina – Developmental Therapist
- Allison Stoku – Developmental Therapist
- Leanne Iglesias – Developmental Therapist
- Allison Gaughan – Occupational Therapist
- Terri Wells – Direct Care Staff
- Natalie Ross – Instructional Specialist
- Paloma Cano – Instructional Specialist
- Daniel Quintana – Instructional Specialist

Coming soon!

Open Enrollment will take effect August 1, 2008. All benefit changes must take place by July 20, 2008. Come see HR if you missed the open enrollment meeting for an explanation of the changes to our benefits.

Did you know that PACE has a Social Committee! The social committee is the group responsible for planning all PACE employee events. If you would like to be involved please contact Michelle or Veronica to receive more information.

Join the PACE Team! Open PACE positions:
- Instructional Specialist – Pre-school and School
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech Language Pathologist (fully credentialed)
- Special Education Teacher
- Developmental Therapists

Thank you to all PACE employees for making PACE such a great place to work!

Turn a Wish Into Reality: PACE Wishlist

Leather or vinyl couches
- Books and dvds for school library
- Weighted blankets/vests

Arts and crafts supplies
- Gardening tools
- Computer learning software

Alternative Augmentative Communication Devices

To donate an item, contact PACE at 408-245-3400 or development@pacificautism.org
Support the 2008 PACE Gala: An Enchanted Evening

It’s that time of year again! We are well on our way in the planning of the 7th annual PACE Gala and Auction, and we need your help to be successful. This year our theme is An Enchanted Evening and the gala will take place at a beautiful private residence in Atherton on a Sunday evening. Though the theme and location have changed, the mission remains the same.

Last year, with the help of many wonderful donors, sponsors and volunteers, we were able to hit our goal of raising $150,000. Help us to be as successful this year.

Choose from a variety of ways to help support PACE at this year’s Gala:

- **Become a sponsor** Help underwrite the cost of the Gala with your sponsorship. Sponsors receive benefits that include event tickets, advertisements in the Auction Directory, acknowledgement at the event and on our website, and much more. Sponsorship starts at $1,000.

- **Donating Goods or Services** Make a tax-deductible donation of an item to our live or silent auction.

- **Advertising in the Auction Book** Purchase advertising space in our Auction Book. For a reasonable price you can promote your business and show support for a cause that strengthens the community.

- **$500 Full Page Ad**
- **$330 ½ Page Ad**
- **$225 ⅛ Page Ad**
- **$150 ⅛ Page Ad**

For more information and to make a contribution, please contact Karen Kennan, Director of Development: 408-245-3400 or karenkennan@pacificautism.org

**In-Kind Corporate Support of Products or Services**
- BAE Systems
- Hitachi State Farm
- Ikon
- Intel
- JP Graphics
- La Petisserie
- NBC 11
- Nordstrom
- Peet’s Coffee
- San Jose Magazine
- Sandisk
- Starbucks Coffee
- Synopsis
- The Donut Wheel
- The Flint Center

**Community Partners**
- Liz Pollard, Alain Pinel Realtors
- The Giving Tree
- Geoff and Carla Davis

*Supporters as of June 30, 2008

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- Links for Life
- Santa Clara Valley National Bank
- TBI Construction and Management
- The Zenith

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- Best Buy
- Five Bridges Foundation
- Flora Family Foundation
- Jewish Community Endowment Fund
- Quota International
- Sandisk Corporation Foundation
- SAP Labs
- Sobrato Family Foundation
- United Way Silicon Valley

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